

In the Claims

1. (previously presented) A thermoplastic polymer article comprising

high density polyethylene, low density polyethylene, linear low density polyethylene, ultra low density polyethylene or ultra high molecular weight polyethylene and

incorporated therein

- a) at least one sterically hindered phenol,
- b) at least one phosphorus-containing secondary antioxidant, and
- c) at least one tocopherol compound

wherein the weight ratio of component (a) to component (b) is from 2:1 to 1:4 and the weight ratio of component (a) to component (c) is from 2:1 to 10:1.

2. (previously presented) A polymer article according to claim 1 wherein the weight ratio of component (a) to component (b) is 1:1 and the weight ratio of component (a) to component (c) is 5:1.

3. (previously presented) A polymer article according to claim 1 wherein the tocopherol compound is α -tocopherol (5,7,8-Trimethyl-tocol).

4. (previously presented) A polymer article according to claim 1 wherein the sterically hindered phenol is tetrakis[methylene-3-(3',5')-di-tert-butyl-4'-hydroxyphenyl]propionate]methane; Octadecyl-3,5- bis(1,1-dimethylethyl)-4-hydroxybenzenepropanoate; 1,3,5-tris[[3,5-bis(1,1-dimethylethyl)-4-hydroxyphenyl]methyl]1,3,5,-triazine-2,4,6(1H,3H,5H)trione; 4,4',4''- [2,4,6-trimethyl-1 ,3,5-benzenetriyl]tris-(methylene)tris[2,6-bis(1,1-dimethylethyl)-phenol; Ethanediy-3,5-bis(1,1-dimethylethyl)-4-hydroxy-thiodi-2,1-benzenepropanoate; 2:1 calcium salt of monoethyl-[[3,5-bis(1,1-dimethylethyl)-4-hydroxyphenyl]-methyl]-phosphonic acid ester; 2-[3-[3,5-bis(1,1-dimethylethyl)-4-

hydroxy-phenyl]-1-oxopropyl]-hydrazide-3,5-bis(1,1-dimethylethyl)-4-hydroxy-benzene-propanoic acid; 2,2'-oxamido-bis-[ethyl-3-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-propionate] or mixtures thereof.

5. (previously presented) A polymer article according to claim 1 wherein the phosphorus-containing secondary antioxidants are Triphenylphosphite, Tris-isodecylphosphite; Tris(nonylphenyl)phosphite; Distearyl pentaerythritol diphosphite; 2,4,6-tri-tert-butylphenyl-2-butyl-2-ethyl-1,3-propanediol phosphite; Bis(2,4-di-tert-butylphenyl)-pentaerythrityl diphosphite; 2,2',2''-nitriolo triethyl-tris[3,3',5,5'-tetra-tert-butyl-1,1'-biphenyl-2,2'-diyl]phosphite; Bis[2,4-di-tert-butyl-6-methyl-phenyl]ethyl phosphite; 2,2'-Ethylidene-bis-(4,6-di-tert-butylphenyl)fluorophosphite; Tris(2,4-di-tert-butylphenyl)phosphite; the 4,6-di-tert-butyl-m-cresol condensation products with the Friedel-Crafts-reaction products of biphenyl and phosphorus trichloride; Tetrakis [2,4-di-tert-butylphenyl]-4,4'-biphenylenediphosphonite; or the condensation products of 2,4-di-tert-butylphenol with the Friedel-Crafts-reaction product of biphenyl and PCl_3 .

6. (previously presented) A method for enhancing the processing stability of high density polyethylene, low density polyethylene, linear low density polyethylene, ultra low density polyethylene or ultra high molecular weight polyethylene

which method comprises incorporating therein before or during processing a stabilizing quantity of

- a) at least one sterically hindered phenol,
- b) at least one phosphorus-containing secondary antioxidant, and
- c) at least one tocopherol compound

wherein the weight ratio of component (a) to component (b) is from 2:1 to 1:4 and the weight ratio of component (a) to component (c) is from 2:1 to 10:1.

7. (previously presented) A method according to claim 6 wherein components a), b) and c), in total, are added in an amount of from 0.001 to 5% by weight, based on the polyethylene.

8. (canceled)

9. (previously presented) A masterbatch composition comprising

90 to 20% by weight of high density polyethylene, low density polyethylene, linear low density polyethylene, ultra low density polyethylene or ultra high molecular weight polyethylene

and

10 to 80% by weight, in total, of

- a) at least one sterically hindered phenol,
- b) at least one phosphorus-containing secondary antioxidant, and
- c) at least one tocopherol compound

wherein the weight ratio of component (a) to component (b) is from 2:1 to 1:4 and the weight ratio of component (a) to component (c) is from 2:1 to 10:1.

10. (canceled)

11. (canceled)

12. (previously presented) A method according to claim 6 wherein components a), b) and c), in total, are incorporated in an amount of from 0.01 to 1% by weight, based on the polyethylene.

13. (previously presented) A method according to claim 6 wherein components a), b), and c), in total, are incorporated in an amount of from 0.1 to 0.5% by weight, based on the polyethylene.

14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A polymer article according to claim 1 ~~wherein~~ comprising

component a ~~is~~ tetrakis[methylene-3-(3',5')-di-tert-butyl-4'-hydroxyphenyl]propionate]methane,

component b ~~is~~ a mixture of

50-80 parts by weight of tetrakis(2,4-di-tert-butylphenyl)-biphenylene-diphosphonite,
10-25 parts by weight of bis(2,4-di-tert-butylphenyl)biphenylene-monophosphonite and
10-25 parts by weight of tris-(2,4-di-tert-butylphenyl)phosphite and

component c ~~is~~ α -tocopherol,

where the weight ratio of component (a) to component (b) is from 2:1 to 1:1 and the weight ratio of component (a) to component (c) is from 5:1 to 10:1.

16. (canceled)

17. (previously presented) A polymer article according to claim 15

where the weight ratio of component (a) to component (b) is 1:1 and the weight ratio of component (a) to component (c) is 10:1.